State Bank of India and Punjab National Bank for appointment to their clerical cadres in their branches in Kashmir valley. The number candidates allotted/offered appointment etc. as reported by the banks, is given below:

	State Bank of India	*Punjab National Bank*
Number of candidates allotted by the Staff Selection Commission	328	33
Number of candidates offered appointment	319	33
Number of candidates joined durties	299	32
Number of candidates refused to join	2	—
Number of candidates granted time for joining late.	2	—

Enforcement of Price Adjustment Formula of RBI in NTC

2604. SHRI M.V.CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to starte:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 641 on July 26, 1991 and state:

(a) whether the contractor have been demanding the revision of contract prices on the basis of Price Adjustment Formula of the reserve Bank of India and not on the basis of PWD rates;

(b) whether all the public sector undertakings engaging civil works contractors have been following the Price Adjustment Formula of the Reserve Bank of India; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to taken by the Government to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir. One of the contractors who was awarded civil works contract in Bengal Fine Spg. and Weaving Mills No. 2, a unit under NTC (WBAB&O) Ltd. has been demanding revision of contract prices on the basis of price Adjustment Formula of the Reserve Bank of India.

(b) and (c): In so far as NTC is conquered, as per the Policy guidlInces issued by Bureau of Public Enterprises, PWD formula for price escalation is being followed for engaging civil work contracts. Since the contractor was not willing to complete the work, his contract was terminated in the year 1989 to resolve the issue.

Welfare of Troops in Stachen Sector

2605. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to tha newsitem captioned "Siachen-Nature is tha prime enamy" appearing in the Indian Express dated November 7, 1991; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to look after the welfare of the troops deployed at such great heights and difficult tract by ensuring adequate provisions and amenities for them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is committed to the welfare of our troops deployed in the Siachen sector. Adequate proyision of all the required items of clothing and equipments to meet the extreme cold weather conditions is being fully ensured. Special high calorie diet is provided to these troops. Keeping in view the possible adverse effects of prolonged deployment in such a harsh weather conditions, personnel are posted for a maximum of six months and adequate medical facilities are provided to them. Provision has also been made for air evacuation of casualties, if any.

A special allowance known as the Siachen Allowance, at Rs. 900/- per month for the officers and Rs. 600/- per month for personnel below officer rank, has been sanctioned with effect from 1.5..1991.

Recovery of Income-Tax

2606. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of firms, individuals, Public Ltd. companies and others against whom income-tax amounting of Rs. one crore and above is outstanding as on November 1,1991; and

(b) the effective steps taken or being taken to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The latest information available in the Ministry about the cases all over the country against whom income-tax demand of Rs. one crore and above is outstanding, is as on 30.6.1991. There were 667 such cases as on that date. A statement of these cases is enclosed.

(b) Apart from the action permissible under the Income-tax law for the recovery of tax dues, suitable administrative steps are continuously taken to recover the tax arrears. Legal actions include levy of penalty for non-payment, issue of garnishee orders to attach bank accounts, debts etc. drawing up of tax recovery statement by Tax Recovery Officers enabling them to effect recovery by attachment/sale of assets, appointment of recover for managing defaulter's property, arrest of defaulters, etc; in appropriate cases. Administratively, Action Plan targets have been fixed for reduction of outstanding demands and the progress of recovery is monitored at various levels. The Assessing Officers are also required to send desired reports in these cases indicating the progress in the recovery of taxes and these reports are reviewed at the level of Commissioner of Income-tax and above. Since a large part of the demand is disputed in appeals etc. steps have also been taken for expeditious disposal of appeals.

STATEMENT